

mid-1980s. She has guided the city through some very important milestones, including negotiations for a Class I horse racetrack, Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie. During these negotiations she was able to secure property for the Grand Prairie Tourism Information Center. The center was able to realize a prime location much sooner than anticipated thanks to the donated property and funds saved.

A Council Member since 1986, Teri has also served as Mayor Pro Tem from 1994–1995, Secretary on the Grand Prairie Sports Facilities Development Corporation since 1993, and as Finance and Government Committee Chairwoman since 1990. In addition she has also held advisory positions on the Regional Transportation Council, EMS task forces, and Compensation Negotiations Committee.

Mrs. Jackson is a graduate from the Prestigious Leadership Texas program for outstanding women in leadership roles. On a national level, she has served on the National League of Cities policy steering committee.

During her years of service to the city of Grand Prairie, Teri has been recognized with numerous awards. She earned the 1994 Athena Award and 1995 Chairman of the Board Award from the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce and the 1996 Woman of Distinction from Soroptomist International. On three different occasions she has received the MAP Award for outstanding performance from her employer.

Mr. Speaker, Teri Jackson exemplifies the qualities of dedication and service as both an employee public servant and citizen of Grand Prairie, Texas. I know my colleagues will join me today to honor her.

ARMED FORCES TAX FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker; thousands of former servicemen and servicewomen in five states are currently prohibited from receiving state-financed home mortgages backed by the sale of federally tax-exempt bonds. That is why Congressman HERGER and I, along with 36 of our colleagues, are introducing the Veterans American Dream Homeownership Assistance Act. This legislation is similar to bills we introduced in the 104th, 105th, 106th, and 107th Congresses.

In order to help veterans own a home, Congress created a program where states could issue bonds exempt from federal income tax in order to raise funds to finance mortgages for owner-occupied residences. Five states—Wisconsin, Alaska, Oregon, California, and Texas—implemented such a program for their veterans. Under a little-known provision in the 1984 tax bill, Congress limited the veterans eligible for this program to those who began military service before 1977.

As a result of the 1984 tax bill, veterans who entered military service after January 1, 1977 are prohibited from receiving a low-interest mortgage financed by federal tax-exempt bonds. This means veterans who served honorably in Panama, Grenada, the Gulf War, Bosnia, Afghanistan, and now Iraq cannot

benefit from this partnership between the federal government and these five states. Are those who began serving our country after January 1, 1977 any less deserving than those who served before?

This arbitrary cutoff was created to raise additional revenue in the 1984 tax bill by limiting the issuance of tax-exempt bonds. When this provision was enacted, post-1976 veterans were a small percentage of all veterans, without much voice to protest this discriminatory change. But, over two decades later, there are thousands of veterans who have served our nation honorably.

Mr. Speaker, as time goes by, this legislation takes on increasing importance. The State of Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs has informed me that if the cap on veterans bonds is not lifted, the State will be forced to disband the program because too few veterans are eligible for the program.

This legislation would simply eliminate the cutoff that exists under current law. Under our proposal, former servicemen and servicewomen in the five states who served our country beginning before or after January 1, 1977 will be eligible to qualify for a low cost mortgage financed by federal tax-exempt bonds. This legislation does not increase federal discretionary spending by 1 cent. It simply allows the five states that have a mortgage finance program for their veterans to provide mortgages to all veterans regardless of when they served in the military.

There is no justification to allow some veterans to qualify for these home mortgages while others cannot. Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to help those veterans who have served after January 1, 1977 to own a home and pass this important legislation into law.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DONALD GERTH

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in tribute to a man with a truly distinguished career in academia. To say that Dr. Donald Gerth has made an indelible mark in higher education would only begin to skim the surface of the many wonderful contributions that he has made as an educator since he took his first teaching job in 1947 as a substitute high school math teacher. After more than a half-century of outstanding public service, Dr. Gerth will soon retire from the post of President of California State University, Sacramento. As his family, friends, colleagues, and admirers gather to celebrate Dr. Gerth's illustrious career, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting one of Sacramento most outstanding citizen leaders.

Dr. Gerth earned his Bachelor's of Arts, Master's, and Doctorate degrees in Political Science at the prestigious University of Chicago. Upon completion of his education, Dr. Gerth applied his great expertise in Asian political systems by serving as an Air Force Intelligence Captain from 1952–1956. After his stint in the Air Force, Dr. Gerth joined the staff of his alma mater, University of Chicago.

In 1958, Dr. Gerth and his wife, Ms. Beverly J. Gerth, moved west to California and began his forty-five year association with the Cali-

fornia State University system. From 1958 to 1963, Dr. Gerth served as Associate Dean of Students and member of the Department of Government from 1958–1963. In 1964, Dr. Gerth accepted the post of Professor of Political Science at California State University, Chico in 1964. During his twelve-year tenure at California State University, Chico, Dr. Gerth also served as Vice President for Academic Affairs from 1970–1976. In addition, Dr. Gerth also lent his valuable services to the university through his roles as Dean of Students, Coordinator of the Institute for Local Government and Public Service and Public Administration, and Co-Director of a Danforth Foundation Research Project on improvement of undergraduate teaching. Dr. Gerth's willingness to tackle a variety of challenges is a testament to his steadfast commitment to bring about positive changes in higher learning.

In 1976, Dr. Gerth was appointed the President of California State University, Dominguez Hills, a post that he would hold for eight years. In July of 1984, Dr. Gerth was named the President of California State University, Sacramento. California State University has experienced significant increases in enrollment and number of degrees awarded under Dr. Gerth's stewardship. California State University, Sacramento is now the sixth largest campus in the twenty three-campus California State University system. In recent years, California State University, Sacramento has initiated many new opportunities for learning such as some year-round programs, evening and weekend offerings, offcampus sites, and technology-based classes via computer or television. It is evident that Dr. Gerth's leadership has played an instrumental role in making California State University, Sacramento one of the most important universities in the state of California.

In addition to his duties as President of California State University, Sacramento, Dr. Gerth is also one of the most influential policy leaders in higher education. Dr. Gerth is the past President of the International Association of University Presidents from 1996–1999. He also served as a member of the Advisory Committee on Higher Education to the Director-General and as a member of the seven-person Steering Committee for the World Conference on Higher Education held in 1998. Dr. Gerth was recently appointed by the U.N. Secretary General and the Director-General of UNESCO to a six-year term on the United Nations University Council, the governing board of the United Nations University is headquartered in Tokyo. It gives me great comfort to know that Dr. Gerth will continue to share his wealth of knowledge and experience in higher education with the world in his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, as Dr. Gerth's friends, family, and colleagues gather to celebrate his great career, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most honorable citizens. Dr. Gerth's continuous leadership is a true testament to public service. If a template for commitment to education could be made, it would surely bear the resemblance of my dear friend Dr. Donald Gerth. Although his tenure as university President may soon be over, his involvement in community service and education is, fortunate for us, far from over. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Dr. Donald Gerth continued success in all his future endeavors.